

## LIST OF PAPERS PUBLISHED IN THE JBNHS

- (1960): On some new species of spiders (Arachnida) of the family Thomisidae from India. 57:173-183.
- (1960): Revision of Indian spiders of the genus *Cyrtarachne* (Argiopidae:Arachnida). 57: 547-556.
- (1961): Protective devices of some orb-weaving spiders from India. 58: 826-829.
- (1962): Studies on some spiders of the genus *Oecobius* (Family Oecobiidae) from India. 59: 682-685.
- (1963): Further studies on Indian spiders of the genus *Cyrtarachne* (Family:Argiopidae). 60: 268-275.
- (1964): Observations on the caecilian *Ichthyophis beddomii* Peters from Kotegebar, District Chikamangalur, Mysore. 61: 697.
- (1968): Observations on the limbless lizard *Ophisaurus gracilis* (Gray) from Shillong, Assam. 65: 233.
- (1968): Gregariousness and mimicry during cocoon stage by the butterfly *Eurema hecabe* (L.). 65: 242-243.
- (1968): A new spider of the genus *Ischnothyreus* Simon (Family Oonopidae) from India. 65: 257-259.
- (1969): Spider fauna of India: Calalogue and Bibliography. 66: 81-91.
- (1969): Futher observations on the limbless lizard, *Ophisaurus gracilis* (Gray) from Shillong, Assam. 66: 382.
- (1970): Spider fauna of India: Catalogue and Bibliography.66: 491-499.
- (1970): Spider fauna of India: Catalogue and Bibliography. 67: 212-221.
- (1872): Spider fauna of India: Catalogue and Bibliography. 69: 91-101.
- (1973): Spider fauna of India: Catalogue and Bibliography. 70: 95-103.
- (1975): A new species of spider of the genus *Cheiracanthium* Koch (Family Clubionidae) from India. 72: 43-45.
- (1975): A new species of spider of the genus *Ctenus* (Family:Ctenidae) from Meghalaya, India. 72: 791-793.
- (1975): A new species of spider of the genus *Lutica* (Family Zodariidae) from India. 72:794-796.
- (1975): A new species of spider of the genus *Plator* Simon (Family: Platoridae) from India.72:797-799.
- (1976): Two new species of spiders of the genera *Cheiracanthium* Koch and *Clubiona* Latreille (Family: Clubionidae) from India. 73:1175-1177.
- (1976): The ground activity of spiders (Araneae) and harvestmen (Phalangidae) in West Bengal, India. 73:121-141.
- (1976): A new species of spider of the genus *Plator* Simon (Family-Platoridae) from Almora, India. 73:178-179.
- (1976): Key to Indian spiders. 73: 356-370.
- (1976): Redescription of a jumping spider *Harmochirus brachiatus* with a new record from India. 73: 410-411.
- (1976): Redescription of type specimens of the species *Eucamptopus coronatus* Pocock and *Euprosthenoops ellioti* (Cambridge) (Family Pisauridae) with critical notes. 73: 539-543.
- (1977): A new species of scorpion of genus *Scorpiops* Peter (Famiily Vejovidae) from India.74: 140-143.
- (1977): Description of two new species of wolf-spider (Family Lycosidae) from Ladakh, India. 74: 144-146.
- (1977): Studies on some Mygalomorph spiders of the family (Tenizidae and Theraphosidae) from India.74:306-319.
- (1977): Sexual dimorphism in the jumping spider *Phidippus pateli* Tikader (Family: Salicidae).74: 543-546.
- (1978): Two new species of spider of the genus *Tharpyna* Koch from India (Family: Thomisidae).75: 903-905.
- (1980): A new species of high altitude spider of the genus *Erigone* Audouin (Family: Erigonidae) from India. 77:490-491.
- (1981): Studies on spiders of the genus *Lutica* Marx (Family-Zodariidae).78:139-142.

M. KRISHNAN  
(1912-1996)

(With a photograph)

Mr. Krishnan who died on 18 February, 1996 at the age of 83 was India's quintessential Naturalist. For over four decades he held the centre stage of Indian Natural History.

Krishnan was born on 30 June 1912, at Perunkulam, Tirunelveli Dt., Tamil Nadu, the last of eight children of a family of considerable literary attainments. He had a liberal education graduating in Tamil, English, Botany and Zoology and finally a

degree in law. All these subjects gave an excellent foundation to his writings, except perhaps law which seems to have been something of an afterthought or perhaps the result of family persuasion, as an elder brother retired as a Chief Justice of the Madras High Court.

Curiously enough Krishnan had a dichotomous career starting life as a commercial artist and till his 37th year he dabbled in various fields ending up the

first half of his career as Political Secretary in the State of Sandur in Karnataka. With the merger of the State he finally stopped being a paid employee and started on the second leg of his career as a free-lance artist, writer, naturalist, and nature photographer and Krishnan at long last came into his own.

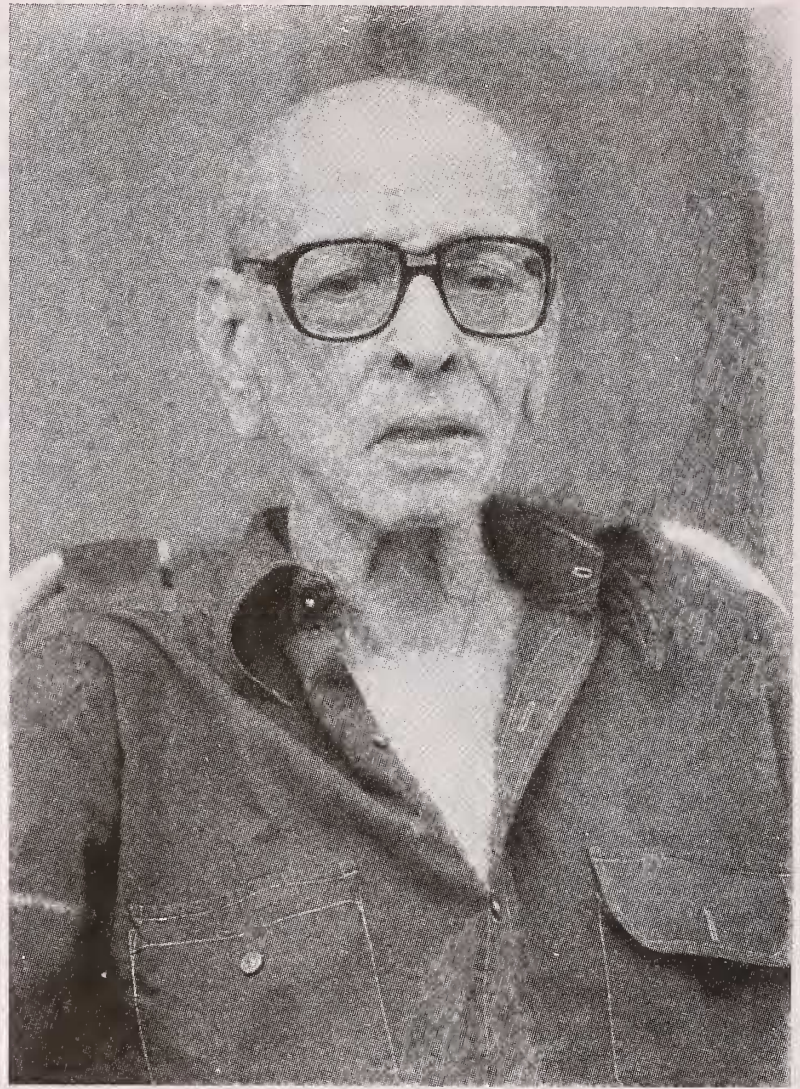
Mr. B. Vijayaraghavan, the President of the Madras Naturalists Society compares him with EHA (Edward Hamilton Aitken) whose delightful style of writing had a light hearted effervescence to it. Krishnan had a wry sense of humour but he differed from EHA in being very serious where natural history was concerned. Again quoting Mr. Vijayaraghavan.

“Krishnan scored over EHA in his scientific acumen, his vast experience of the jungles and his expert skill as a wildlife photographer.

Krishnan dedicated his book *Nights and Days: My book of India's Wildlife* (1985) to his readers to whom alone he felt he had a responsibility. He spoke of the enjoyment he had derived from his love of wildlife which in some measure he hoped to pass on to his readers. If the book fails in this, I can plead nothing in extenuation, for a professional can have no excuse for his ineptitude in his chosen field. He surely does not fail.

He never failed his readers. That was not easy for one who regularly wrote innumerable notes for newspapers and journals, obligated to meet deadlines, and on an incredible variety of topics in natural history, all based on his own experience and observations. The craftsmanship that went into every one of his pieces made them a delight to read. The balanced sentence, the well-turned phrase and the elegant idiom reigned supreme.

There are few writers on natural history who can write with scientific objectivity and without resort to poetic imagery and yet transmit to their readers some of their elation. Strange though it may seem, the serious observer of nature is often a dried-up specimen lacking in sensitivity. That was why Hazlitt referred to the naturalist who catches the glow-worm, carries it home with him in a box, and finds the next morning nothing but a little grey worm while the poet visits it in the evening when beneath



M. Krishnan

the scented hawthorn and the crescent moon it has built itself a palace of emerald light. Krishnan showed us that a good naturalist-writer could be accurate and yet be enchanting.

Krishnan had a special empathy for elephants and was in his day the authority on the behaviour of elephants. His observations were accurate and meticulous as is evident from his study of the larger mammals of Peninsular India which he undertook under the prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru Fellowship (incidentally he was the first awardee). The results were published in a series of articles in this *Journal* and later in book form by the Society. His fortnightly column in the “Statesman” ran without a break for 46 years and was an editor’s dream as the article was perfect in all respects and required no editing. In fact M. Krishnan was such a craftsman that whatever he wrote required no editing and when any editing was done it brought down his wrath on the unfortunate editor. I had once to shorten an article

of his for inclusion in an anthology and I made the mistake of editing the article without consulting him. He was deeply hurt though he never showed his displeasure. He was always helpful with advice if he felt that a mistake had been made. I had once written an article for a Govt. of India publication at his instance which in the process of publication got mutilated beyond recognition. I wrote a sarcastic letter to the editor with a copy to Krishnan. He replied immediately cautioning me against sarcasm which he felt left a festering sore of resentment with the recipient.

It was in photography that Krishnan gave full expression to his talents. He worked exclusively in monochrome and such is the quality of his photography that they stood enlargements to any size

he wanted. Krishnan's photographic studies of wildlife cannot be bettered. It would be a tragedy indeed if his negatives and his meticulous field notes, are not given the status of a national heritage, and protected as such.

Krishnan, in the course of his life picked up many awards; the Jawaharlal Nehru Fellowship, the Padma Shri and the Global 500 Roll of Honour for 1995.

He leaves behind his wife with whom he was to have celebrated his 60th wedding anniversary during the year and his son who is the Principal Chief Conservator or of Forests, Tamil Nadu.

J.C. DANIEL

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- (1951): Koels (*Eudynamis scolopaceus*) eating the poisonous fruit of the yellow oleander. 50:943-945.  
 (1955): The Rosy Pastor in the Bellary Area. 53:128.  
 (1965): Wild dogs. 62:543-545.  
 (1971): The esturine crocodile *Crocodilus porosus* Schneider off the Orissa coast. 67:573-574.  
 (1971): An ecological survey of the larger animals of peninsular India. 68:503-555.  
 (1972): An ecological survey of the larger animals of peninsular India. 69:26-54.

- (1972): An ecological survey of the larger animals of peninsular India. 69:297-351.  
 (1972): An ecological survey of the larger animals of peninsular India. 69: 469-501.  
 (1974): R.H Waller's observations on wildlife sanctuaries in India. A partial rejoinder. 71:594-598.  
 (1978): Disconnected observations on a species of Scolopendra. 75:239-240.  
 (1978): Emotive kinships in the study of mammals. 75:613-617.  
 (1980): The availability of nesting materials and nesting sites as vital factors in the gregarious breeding of Indian water birds. 77:1143-1152.